

A Method of *Reading* HEBREW;^{Language}

Illustrated, by expressing in *English* characters P S A L M 23.

IN order to pronounce Hebrew *intelligibly*, that is, in such a manner that every Letter of a word may be known by the Sound, where the Sense of a word is before unknown; it is necessary, that each Letter have always the same Sound, which must be distinct from that of every other Letter. The 22 Letters have here the following powers ---

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| ב ג ד ז ח ט כ ל מ נ ס פ צ ק ר ש ת | א ה ו י ע |
| b g d z ch t k l m n s p tz q r sh th | a e u i o |

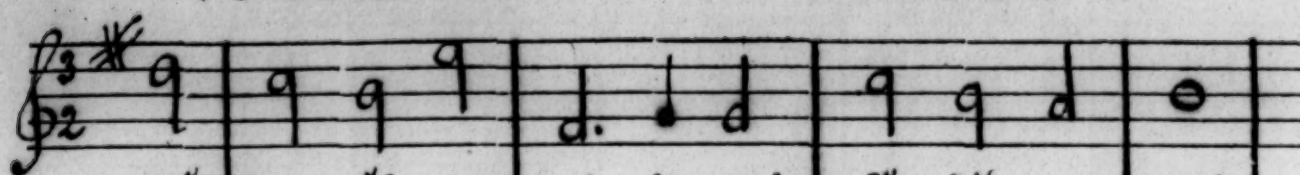
Where neither of these long Vowels occurs, a short Vowel is supplied; and the short *a* is here preferred, because most easily distinguished: which supplemental Vowel may be inserted at pleasure, either in the middle of a word, or at the end of it. When the 3 Vowels ה ו י begin syllables; they may (if pronounced more easily) be sounded like *h v y*: because, when thus sounded, they are still distinct and intelligible. Note, that *g* (ג) is pronounced as in *gold* --- *ch* (ח) as in *child* --- and *q* (ק) must frequently have after it the supplemental vowel, particularly at the end of a word. This system of Pronunciation will be better understood, from a Specimen; in which (with a particular exception to the above method) the word J E H O V A H is pronounced nearly in the common way.

This Specimen is here *given*, at the earnest request of some very respectable Friends; and partly, as it enables the Musical Reader to *Sing one of the Songs of Sion*, in its Original Hebrew: which has not, perhaps, been attempted for many ages. Not the least deviation is made here, in adapting the Hebrew Words to the Notes of a solemn *Tune*, already well known; particularly, for its being connected with Mr Addison's celebrated Paraphrase of this same Psalm: see *Spectator*, N°. 441.

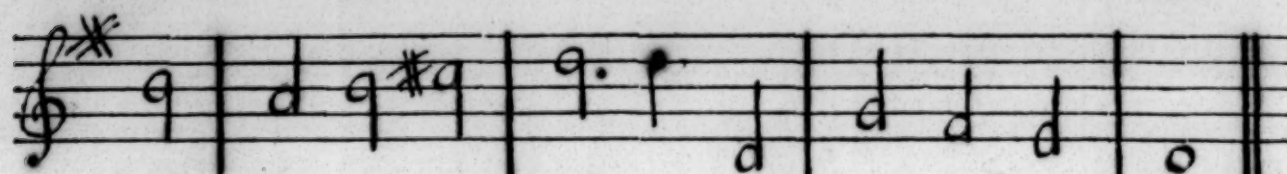
The common division of this Psalm is into 6 very unequal Verses. But the Sense divides it into 2 Stanzas, with 6 lines in each, agreeably to the Tune; and this it does very naturally as to every line, one or two excepted. But, tho' the Hebrew generally closes the Sense with each Line; yet sometimes the Sense goes on, in connection with the Line following: as it frequently does in *Greek*, *Latin*, and *English* Poetry. And therefore the beginning of line xi is connected in sense with the line before it: which may be the case with the first word of line 2, if connected necessarily with the former line; tho' the construction may be vindicated, as it here stands. The Text is given here exactly as usual; excepting in 5 instances --- the necessary ו being added 3 times, and the pronoun ׀ twice --- on the authority of MSS and antient Versions.

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| <p>דשא ירביצני על מי מנוחות 2</p> <p>במעגלי צדק למען שמו 4</p> <p>לא אירא רע כי אתה עמדי: 6</p> <p>תערך לפני שלחן נגד צורי 8</p> <p>אך טובך וחסדך ירדפוני 10</p> <p>בבית יהודה לארך ימים: 12</p> | <p>יהודה רעי לא אחסר בנאות 1</p> <p>ינהלני נפשי ישובב ינחני 3</p> <p>גם כי אלך בגיא צלמות 5</p> <p>שבטך ומשענתך המה ינחמוני 7</p> <p>דשנת בשמן ראשי וכוסי רויה 9</p> <p>כל ימי חיי ושבתי 11</p> |
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N.B. The lines 3 & 4 are sung to the same Notes, as lines 1 & 2; and, of course, the lines 9 & 10 go to the same parts of the Tune, as the lines 7 & 8.




1. Yă--ho--vâh ro---i la ach--fâr bă---na---uth
JEHOVAH is my shepherd! I want not pleasant pastures;



2. Dă--sha ir--bi---tză--ni ol mi mă--nu-chuth
On tender grafs he make h me lie down, near refreshing streams :

3. I--nel--ni năp---shi i--shu--băb i--năch--ni
He guideth me, my soul he converteth, he leadeth me,

4. Bă--mo--gă--li tzăd--qă lă--mo--nă shă--mu
In the paths of righteousness, for the sake of his name :



5. Găm ki a—lăk bă—gi—a tzăl--muth
Even when I walk thro' the valley of the shadow of death,



6. La a---i---ra ro ki a—the om—di.
I will not fear evil, because THOU art with me.

S T A N Z A II.

7. Shăb-tăk um-shon-thăk e-me i-năch-mu-ni
Thy rod and thy staff, these shall comfort me ;

8. Tho--răk lăp-ni shăl-chăn nă--găd tză--ră--ri
Thou spreadest before me a table, in the presence of mine enemies :

9. Dăsh--năth băsh-măn ra-shi vă-cu-fi ru--ye.
Thou anointest with oil my head, and my cup overfloweth ;

10. Ak tu--băk u--chăf--dăk i--ră--dă--pu--ni
Verily thy goodness and thy mercy shall accompany me,

11. Kăl i—mi chi—i u—shă---bă---thi
All the days of my life: and my dwelling shall be

12. Bă---bi---thă Yă-ho-vâh la--răk i--mim.
In the house of JEHOVAH, for ever and ever.